

TO: Indiana State Board of Education
FROM: Indiana State Board of Education Staff; Indiana Department of Education
RE: Process for IC 20-26-13-10(b)
DATE: July 8, 2020

This memorandum outlines the proposed process to implement IC 20-26-13-10(b). Indiana Department of Education (Department) and Indiana State Board of Education (Board) staff jointly recommend the adoption of this process by the Board.

Background

Public Law 159-2019 added the requirement that any high school with a high percentage of students leaving the high school's cohort to attend homeschool must submit a request to the Board to allow these students to be removed from the cohort instead of being considered "dropouts". This requirement will first apply to the 2020 cohort.

Specifically, IC 20-26-13-10(b) provides that any high school where a significant percentage of students in the cohort were removed to attend homeschool and not on track to graduate must submit a request to the Board to request these students be considered mobile and not considered dropouts. The Board must review the request and deny such request if the high school fails to demonstrate "good cause" to justify the student's mobility to homeschool. Any student for which a request is denied by the Board shall be returned to the high school's cohort and considered a "dropout" for purposes of graduation rate calculations.

Review Process

Staff jointly recommend the implementation of the following process to carry out IC 20-26-13-10(b).

1. Department staff compiles a list of all high schools that satisfy one of the following:
 - a. For a cohort of 100 students or less, at least ten percent (10.0%) of the students in the cohort were mobilized to homeschool, where the denominator equals the total number of students who were ever in the school's cohort over the term of the respective cohort and were not moved to another Indiana school's cohort, and the numerator equals the total number of students in the cohort who were identified as mobilized to homeschool once the cohort locks.
 - b. For a cohort of more than 100 students, at least five percent (5.0%) of the students in the cohort were mobilized to homeschool, where the denominator equals the total number of students who were ever in the school's cohort over the term of the respective cohort and were not moved to another Indiana school's cohort, and the numerator equals the total and the numerator equals the total number of students in the cohort who were identified as mobilized to homeschool once the cohort locks.

2. Department staff notifies each high school identified under (1) that it must provide documentation for each student in the cohort who was ever mobilized to homeschool. In order to be deemed “sufficient” and demonstrating “good cause”, the high school must provide documentation demonstrating the mobilization to homeschool was initiated and approved by the parent, and documentation demonstrating that the student was “on track” to graduate at the time of mobilization to homeschool. In order to satisfy these requirements, the high school must submit the following documentation to the Department by the stated deadline:
 - a. Board-adopted “withdrawal to non-accredited nonpublic school” form required under IC 20-33-2-28.6, signed and dated by the parent and explicitly indicating the pursuance of homeschool.
 - b. Student’s transcript indicating the number of credits earned at the time of withdrawal to homeschool. In order to be considered “on track” to graduate, the student must have completed and earned credits based on the following schedule:
 - i. At least ten (10) credits must be earned by a student who mobilized after the completion of the freshman year (9th grade).
 - ii. At least twenty (20) credits must be earned by a student who mobilized after the completion of the sophomore year (10th grade).
 - iii. At least thirty (30) credits must be earned by a student who mobilized after the completion of the junior year (11th grade).
 - iv. At least thirty (30) credits must be earned by a student who mobilized after the completion of the first semester of the senior year (12th grade).
 - v. At least thirty-five (35) credits must be earned by a student who mobilized during the second semester of the senior year (12th grade).
3. Department staff reviews all documentation to determine whether a school has demonstrated good cause for each student.
4. Department staff notifies each high school identified under (1) of the total number of students reviewed for which good cause was or was not demonstrated. Each high school identified under (1) is provided with the opportunity to review the Department’s findings; however, the high school will not be afforded the opportunity to provide supplemental information beyond the initial information submitted.
5. Department staff shares the results and its findings with Board staff. All findings and recommendations are brought forward to the Board for approval.
6. Any student for which good cause was not demonstrated shall be returned to the school’s cohort and considered a “dropout” for purposes of graduation rate.

Timeline

To promote efficiency, staff recommend this process be carried out in conjunction with the mandatory graduation rate audit conducted pursuant to IC 20-26-13-11. Schools will be afforded at least two months to gather and submit the required documentation. The Department will review all submissions in a timely manner, and bring forth all findings and recommendations to



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jennifer McCormick
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Working Together for Student Success

the Board for approval no later than the January business meeting. All graduation rates will be final by January 15th annually.